

# The Eagle's Eye

125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard



Fall 2001

## Florida's First "Air" TAG:

BG Douglas  
Burnett  
Story page 4



### Inside



Services Squadron  
trains at DOD's  
best kept secret



Medical Squadron  
deploys to  
Alpena Michigan



Operation  
Road Warrior II  
Ramstein Germany

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## 125th FW Wing Commander

Col. Charles V. Ickes II

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## Commander's Column



Col. Charles V. Ickes II

I just returned from the convention for the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) that was held in Indianapolis this year. As usual there were many excellent briefings and guest speakers to fill the agenda.

Of particular interest were two briefings concerning the recent decision on B-1 reductions and the status of the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). The present administration is in the process of developing a National Defense Strategy that will meet requirements well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Even while formulating this strategy, the reality is that the defense budget will remain critically tight. Modernization for all branches of the service is a key to the new strategy, but it comes at a very hefty price. The Air Force alone is trying to develop two new tactical fighters, each coming with a huge bill.

Because of the changes, there are many plans being studied at various levels of the DoD. These "what if" drills are essential and part of how we do business, but cause a tremendous amount of speculation and rumor. The B-1 decision is particularly worrisome to the National Guard and how it might affect all our futures.

The question has been raised, "why select the B-1s from the Air Guard rather than active duty?" One of the main reasons is that without a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process the Air Force cannot reduce force structure of active duty units. For example it would not make sense to take the B-1s from Ellsworth AFB, S.D. and then move another type aircraft into the base.

This decision still leaves many questions. What is to become of the units at Robins AFB, Ga. and McConnell AFB, Kan.? Will they get a new aircraft, new mission or will the units vanish? I cannot predict what will happen to these organizations, but I know things are being done to make sure the units remain active and viable into the future.

The world is changing and so is the US military. Tough decisions will have to be made to insure we remain the most powerful military in the world, and I'm confident that our leaders at both the national and state level will make wise decisions. We at the 125<sup>th</sup> should be very confident about our future and what lies ahead for us. We have positioned ourselves as one of the premier flying units in the Air Force. Also, as part of 1st Air Force our future as part of homeland defense is very strong.

Let me conclude by adding my congratulations to BG Doug Burnett on being selected as the next Adjutant General of Florida. BG Burnett is richly deserving of this selection and will do a great job as the first "Blue Suit" TAG in the state. BG Burnett has supported both Army and Air projects within the state and brings a wealth of knowledge to his new position.

Let me also add my congratulations to BG Buddy Titshaw for his selection as the next Assistant Adjutant General for Air. BG Titshaw has commanded at nearly every level within the Florida Air Guard during his more than 30-year career and will add tremendous experience and leadership to this position.



# Medical Squadron deploys to Alpena

By Master Sgt. Sharri J. Crews  
125<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron

The 125<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron deployed 59 of its' personnel to Continued Medical Readiness Training in Alpena, Mich. July 14, 2001 for one week of intense training at the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC). The mandatory training provides the necessary wartime readiness skills our personnel need to operate an Air Force Theater Hospital.

Training alongside the 125<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron, were personnel from the 202<sup>nd</sup> Red Horse Civil Engineering Squadron, 106<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron and the 940<sup>th</sup> Air Wing (AFRES).

The training included the entire spectrum of Air Force health care needs medical personnel may encounter in a theater of operations. In-class instruction covered various wartime readiness topics and specialized AFSC training that integrated instruction on one of only two Human Patient Simulators owned by the Air Force.

The Human Patient Simulator, a computerized mannequin, executes thousands of different medical scenarios intended to test medical personnel. This simulated "human" that breathes and has a heartbeat, allows medical technicians to perform a variety of medical procedures. Medical personnel listened to different breathing and heart rhythms and practiced their intubations and catheteriza-



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Terry D. Libbert

**Members of the 125th Medical Squadron participate in the litter obstacle course.**

tion skills.

Additional training included a litter obstacle course, temper tent/site selection, night navigation course and ground crew ensemble training. The litter obstacle course was challenging, especially for the patient on the litter. The four-person litter team battled obstacles such as high walls, fences, hills and various ground hazards in an effort to transport the patient to safety. Lying 'helpless' on the litter provided medical technicians a more accurate and unique perspective of what it is like to be a patient in extreme circumstances.

When the in-class and exercise/obstacle course portion of the training ended, members deployed to Camp Collins, Mich. There they spent three luxurious nights in hotel accommodations that included a cot and catered lunches consisting of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's). At Camp Collins members of the squadron were tasked with multiple exercises. Chemical, MOOTW (Military Operations Other Than War), humanitarian, and mass casualty scenarios required personnel to use their professional medical, and wartime readiness skills.

"Alpena provides excellent training and good team building forums," said Col. Ramsey B. Salem, 125<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron commander. "We defeated the enemy and I'm proud to be the leader of the best medical squadron in the Air National Guard!"



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Terry D. Libbert

**Members of the 125th Medical Squadron don chemical warfare training gear.**

# Burnett named first Florida “Air” TAG

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125FW Public Affairs

Guardsmen remember many of the great ‘firsts’ of their military career—the first day of basic training, the first promotion or perhaps, the first big assignment tasked by a supervisor. With over 38 years of service in the Florida Air National Guard, Brigadier General Douglas Burnett has experienced many ‘firsts.’ The first time he met Florida Air Guardsmen from the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group was while he was working for them at his father’s plastics company. Their discipline, leadership, and camaraderie immediately impressed him, motivating him to enlist in the Guard as an Airman Basic directly out of high school.

Other significant military ‘firsts’ for Burnett might include the first day of pilot training at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas and the day he took command of the Florida Air National Guard in 1996.

The next ‘first’ not only belongs to Burnett, but to the men and women of the Florida National Guard—both Army and Air. For the first time in history, a Florida Air National Guardsman will be appointed as The Adjutant General of Florida. On Aug. 8, 2001 at approximately 1 p.m., via a telephone call, Burnett, 57, was asked by Gov. Jeb Bush to take command of the Florida Army and Air National Guard.

Burnett is enthusiastic not only about his new position, but about the Guard in general. “We have the best citizens of Florida in the Guard and to get the best out of them you’ve got to recognize their talents and make sure they know your genuine concern for them,” said Burnett. When asked what makes a great leader, Burnett replied, “you’ve (a leader) got to be concerned about everyone. Every person that goes through that gate (airbase or armory) in the afternoon needs to feel like a four-star general. Respect of every member of the team is extremely important.”

Burnett, who will assume command from the current Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Ronald O. Harrison, on November 3, 2001 at a change of command ceremony presided over by Gov. Bush, began his Florida Air National Guard career in 1963. A native of Jacksonville, Fla. Burnett grew up with a natural inclination and enthusiasm for electronics and was motivated by both the love of electronics

and the professionalism he witnessed in the Guardsmen who supervised him at his father’s company.

“They (the Guardsmen) treated me nicer than anyone ever treated me in the world. There was something about the way they did their business that taught me to be motivated and excited about getting the job done. There was something about these folks that was different,” said Burnett. That “something” motivated Burnett to explore the Guard as an avenue for self-fulfillment.

Burnett began his Air National Guard career as an aircraft radio repairman, and during his six years in the enlisted ranks he completed a degree in finance at the University of Southern Mississippi. It was during these years that he set his sights on becoming the leader of the Florida Air National Guard.

“When I was in college my goal was to become the commander of the Florida Air National Guard. I was in college for only one reason: to get a degree, to get a commission and (to) fly the F-102. That was the focus of everything that I did in school,” said Burnett.

It was during his time in college that he met and fell in love with the former Judy Jones. Both he and his wife were business majors at the University of Southern Mississippi and later married in 1969.

After college, Burnett began pursuing his goals in earnest. He received a direct commission and attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Randolph Air Force

Base, Texas. After earning his wings and attending the F-102 Combat Crew Training School at Ellington Air Force Base, Texas, he flew full time as an alert pilot with the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. Burnett then entered the commercial aviation world and flew for Pan American World Airways and United Airlines.

While remaining dual qualified in both military fighter and transport aircraft, he flew for commercial airlines, and held several leadership positions at the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and State Headquarters. His leadership positions included Group Air Operations Officer, Chief of Safety, Director of Operations, and Chief of Staff. In



*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Judy Burnett*

**Sgt. Burnett sits in the cockpit of an F-102 fighter aircraft.**

1996, Burnett realized the fulfillment of his ultimate goal by becoming the commander of the Florida Air National Guard. Burnett attributes his ability to accomplish all of these endeavors to simply staying focused—and lots of hard work. “If you really want to go somewhere with your life the number one key is hard work,” said Burnett.

Alongside staying focused and hard work, Burnett regards education and mentoring as vital keys to success for the present and future members of the Guard aspiring to achieve the same success he has enjoyed. If given the opportunity to guide a young man or woman from the beginning to the end of a successful career, he would tell them to get a mentor, get an education, and above all else, “be passionate about everything that you do.

Burnett’s passion for the Guard was encouraged by such mentors as Harrison, who was and is an ardent crusader for educational opportunities for all Guardsmen. An earlier mentor was a staff sergeant who taught Burnett that to succeed, one need only to: follow the rules, do the job right, and be eager to get the job done. “Staff Sgt. Karl Tucker (retired Chief Master Staff Sgt. Karl L. Tucker) prepared me by instilling the standards you need to have as you move up,” said Burnett.

Burnett’s unrelenting focus is on the future. He believes that despite the tentative proposed changes under Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, he and various organizations such as the Enlisted National Guard Association and The National Guard Association of the United States will ensure that senior leadership is aware of the viability of the Army and Air National Guard.

“The Air Force budget is about 85 billion dollars a year. Only 5 billion of that is ANG and for 5 billion you get almost half the tanker fleet, half of the strategic airlift fleet, 40% of the fighter operations—that is a lot of bang for the buck,” said Burnett.

And with the big push for a more modernized Air Force, Burnett foresees the Florida Air National Guard following suit. “You’ll see the Florida Air National Guard getting more modern equipment in the future. Certainly, the significant enhancements to our combat weapons systems we’ve been able to do in Florida in the past few

years make a difference. Our F-15’s are very competitive for a mission that the field commanders want in-theater. I really think we’re going to wind up with F-22’s in Jacksonville someday,” said Burnett. “That day may not be too far off.”

Once he takes office, Burnett will lead approximately 13,000 Guardsmen. Burnett is excited about the new relationship he will have with the Army.

“The Florida Army Guard’s major commands are led by superb leaders. The soldiers in these units are exceptionally committed and well trained to do their federal or state mission at a moments notice. They are ready to do the job right now,” said Burnett.

Accompanying Burnett on his new journey will be his beloved wife and best friend, Judy, herself a well-respected and accomplished professor who was named Professor of the Year by Florida Community College in 1998. Mrs. Burnett has supported her husband’s career for 32 years and understands all too well the hard work and sacrifices. “The Guard has always been at the top for him but he has always been there for his family,” said Mrs. Burnett. “He’s always been able to balance his time with us and the Guard.” She was there



*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Judy Burnett*

**2Lt Burnett climbs in the cockpit of a T-38 aircraft.**

when Burnett received the phone call. “We were together when Gov. Bush called with the announcement and it was all very exciting. Here’s someone who has shared your whole career. She’s had a lot to do with pushing me out there when I was a little timid and a lot to do with telling me when to back off when I needed to. I have to give her great credit for hanging in there through many years of my Guard career,” said Burnett.

Despite the obvious challenge of leading such a diverse group of people, Burnett is determined to lead the Florida National Guard with the same passion and leadership philosophy of hard work and staying focused he embraced as the leader of the Florida Air National Guard since 1996. The goal - To be recognized as world-class and ‘second to none!’

“It’s not about the color of your suit (uniform)—its about leadership. When you look at the ‘joint world’ we live in today—the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard—the whole range—it’s become such a joint environment but the issue at the top is leadership.”



# Operation Road Warrior II – the sequel

By Capt. Richard E. Bittner  
125FW Public Affairs

Mel Gibson he's not but he sure has a passion for his people! I'm referring fondly to Col. Ronald D. Brooks, 125<sup>th</sup> Support Group commander, of course! His vision for his people: to see them deploy and perform the mission in an environment other than the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. This summer, Brooks commitment to his people continued when his command and other sections from the wing deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany for Operation Road Warrior II (ORW II).

His initial vision came to fruition last year when 104 men and women from the wing deployed to RAF Mildenhall, England to lend support to the 100<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing. That deployment, the first of its kind for the 125<sup>th</sup> composed entirely of various support personnel, was such a rousing suc-

cess that plans were laid immediately after the conclusion for "ORW II."

125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing members from civil engineering, communica-

tions, security forces, personnel, supply, transportation, contracting, finance and the Support Group command section deployed July 7-21, 2001 primarily to support the 86 Airlift Wing and subordinate units at Ramstein AB. Some members worked projects throughout the Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC). Places like Sembach Air Base, Kapaun Air Station, Einsiedlerhof Air Station and Rhine Ordnance Barracks will provide lasting memories for the 86 personnel who deployed there.

The deployment met two needs. It provided a venue for 125<sup>th</sup> personnel who normally do not deploy OCONUS (outside the continental U.S.) to receive training and gain experience in an "active" environment. It also served as a "relief valve" for our active duty counterparts. 125<sup>th</sup> personnel filled critical personnel shortfalls and reduced work backlogs that develop during the summer months due to Permanent Change of Station (PCS) and Leave activities.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lawrence J. Show

**Lt. Col. Stephen N. Fields, 125th FW Executive Officer, gives an interview to Staff Sgt. Jeffrey J. Trumble, 125th Visual Information, in front of a piece of the Berlin Wall re-erected on Ramstein AB as a monument to the Cold War. Col. Ronald D. Brooks holds a cue card.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lawrence J. Show

**Master Sgt. Thomas E. Allen Sr. (far right) and Staff Sgt. Glenwood G. Outlaw Jr., 125th Civil Engineering Squadron (far left), assist German nationals construct a concrete barrier for force protection near Ramstein AB billeting.**

"We arrived at a particularly good time as the 86<sup>th</sup> Air Wing was undergoing a major mobility exercise which left their mission support squadron shorthanded," said Maj. David R. Thomas, 125<sup>th</sup> Military Personnel Flight commander. "Our people just rolled right into their shops, picked up as though they had been there for months and in some cases really took leadership positions in the shop."

"One of the most significant things they've done is to clear up a backlog of almost 800 reassignment actions in the 86<sup>th</sup> Air Wing. Col. Kirk Fitchner, the commander of the 86<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, was thrilled to have us there; our people worked really hard and had a great time and he really wants us back and we will be back!" said Thomas.

This was just one example of the value this type of deployment for annual training (DFT) provides to our members and the host units.

Some of the younger troops expressed the same sentiment. "At Kapaun Air Station we've been working (on) a lot of scheduled maintenance, basically a lot of oil changes and just helping to get them caught up," said Senior Airman Emma P. Lee, 125<sup>th</sup> Logistics Squadron special vehicle mechanic. "They've been really behind. (We do) just whatever they need us to do – we've been really busy!"

The deployment provided a unique training opportunity. "What I've been able to do here as a 1st Sgt. is learn quite a bit about the deployment process. It's been a pretty good learning experience for me," said Master Sgt. Tony L. Whitehead, 125<sup>th</sup> Support Group 1st Sgt. Coordinating the final bed down issues for billeting, rental vehicles, dining facility privileges and other items provided a real challenge for his first deployment as "the shirt," said Whitehead.

"There is a dual purpose (for the deployment) and that is to train people in a different environment and to get them to work with different

people they're not familiar with," said Capt. Glenn S. Fannin, 125<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron. "To get new ideas circulating, to learn new things and to pick up a lot more of what people in this area of the world have to deal with on a daily basis so hopefully we can be better prepared should we have to face that in the future stateside. We also want to be able to share our experiences and our maturity with some of the young troops and maybe show them a thing or two."

The project officer for the deployment, Maj. James S. Stuart, 125<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight commander, had this to say, "Folks are contributing, they're having a good time and they're making the most of this two-week stay in Germany."

After the deployed personnel learned a few things and relieved their hosts backlog of work, they returned to Jacksonville with some fond memories. Senior Airman Angela F. Lee, 125<sup>th</sup> Military Personnel Flight, commented that she particularly enjoyed the food and the wine and the history that goes along with

it. Senior Airman Sherry A. Most, 125<sup>th</sup> Logistics Squadron, loved the scenery. Senior Airman Kenneth L. Cole, 125<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron enjoyed the cool weather. Staff Sgt. Adam M. Fisher, 125<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight, commented that his favorite thing was something Germany is famous for. The beer. He explained, "I like a good bold rich taste (from his beer) and they offer that (in Germany) in the half liter and liter size." Fisher looked like the cat that swallowed the canary as he gleefully described his experimentation.

The sentiment to return in the future was shared equally by those who deployed and by those who hosted. Master Sgt. Guido D. Paternoster, 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing finance section, expressed the desire better than anyone else just with the grin on his face when asked if he would like to come back. He simply said "YES! – NEXT YEAR PLEASE!"

Plans are already in the works for Operation Road Warrior III. How do you say Aviano in Italian? Oh, never mind.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lawrence J. Shaw*

**Tech. Sgt. Terrance S. Harris prepares an electrical distribution panel for a Morale Welfare and Recreation function.**

# Weapons System Evaluation Program

By Lt. Col. Jim "Shaggy" Agee  
159th Fighter Squadron

August 7-17, 2001, the 125th Fighter Wing deployed nine F-15s and 114 personnel to Panama City and Fort Walton Beach Fla. to participate in the Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP). The purpose of the deployment was to confirm that the unit is ready to fight and win. This is all about being lethal in combat.

The 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group (WEG) located at Tyndall AFB, Fla. aids us in evaluating the total weapons system of man, machine, and missile. The 53rd WEG evaluates combat aircraft systems through live weapons firings under realistic operational conditions, in-depth performance analysis, and identification of any weapon system deficiencies with a determination of their



*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Terry D. Libbert*

**Maj. Thomas "Kooch" Cucchi returns from an F-15 Weapons System Evaluation Program mission.**

causes. Recommendations and detailed reports are sent to higher headquarters and the Combat Air Forces (CAF) on all weapons system evaluations. This information is used to support Air Staff decisions on operational capabilities, aircraft upgrades, weapon system modifications, pilot awareness needs, and force structure. Quite simply, the entire CAF gets a report on how ready the Florida Air National Guard is to do its mission.

For me, the Commander of the 159th Fighter Squadron, the most important part of WSEP is to build the confidence of our newest pilots in themselves, the F-15, and the ordinance they carry. Once a pilot has experience employing live missiles, he ceases to be afraid of failure. Only the unknown frightens man. WSEP builds the confidence a warrior will need when the shooting is for real.

WSEP also illuminates the unknown in the performance characteristics of our missiles. We shot four AIM-9 Sidewinder heat-seek-



*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Terry D. Libbert*

**125th maintenance personnel prepare to launch an F-15 at Tyndall AFB, Fla.**





*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Terry D. Libbert*

**Tech. Sgt Gregory W. Burnette (from left); Senior Master Sgt. Curt G. Taylor; Staff Sgt. William T. Nelson; and Master Sgt. Howard F. Harter prepare an AIM-7 Sparrow missile for loading onto an F-15.**

ing missiles and four AIM-7MH Sparrow radar-guided missiles against maneuvering drones using infrared and electronic countermeasures. These were purposely designed to be very challenging profiles to explore the outer edges of the weapons envelope.

In addition to the WSEP live-fire missile sorties, the unit was engaged in Suite-4 radar upgrade testing and four-ship continuation training with Fighter Data Link (FDL) at Eglin AFB Fla. The herculean efforts of our maintenance people cannot be overstated. Our maintenance troops simultaneously delivered fully mission capable air-

ing, and Suite-4 radar testing. The innovation and hard work that went into preparing the Suite-4 jets is especially appreciated.

When the unit deploys in December to support Operation Northern Watch every pilot will have had the experience of shooting a live missile. He will have already felt the adrenaline rush of a several hundred pound missile leaving the rail of his fighter and will have the confidence that his aircraft and ordinance are ready to fly, fight and win.



*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Terry D. Libbert*

**Tech. Sgt. Kenneth M. Russell (from left); Tech. Sgt. Gregory W. Burnette; Tech. Sgt. Robert A. Kennedy; and Master Sgt. Howard F. Harter load an AIM-7 Sparrow missile onto an F-15 prior to a Weapons System Evaluation Program mission.**



## Promotion.....

Col. Charles V. Ickes II, 125th Fighter Wing Commander, poses with Col. William J. Strandell following his promotion ceremony. Col. Strandell was pinned on August 2, 2001 in Washington D.C. Strandell, the former 125th Civil Engineering Squadron Commander, is now the Air National Guard Deputy Civil Engineer at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Andrews AFB, MD. Also pictured is Strandell's wife, Valerie.

*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Darleen Wilson-Smith*

# In brief.....

## EAF Commitments

*By Capt. Robert T. Botkin  
125FW Plans and Logistics*

Well it's that time of the year again! No, it's not Christmas. However, it is time to deploy to our Expeditionary Aerospace Force taskings. The 125th Fighter Wing will be sending more than 300 personnel to such far away locations as Istres Air Base, France; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Air Emirates (UAE); Eskan Village and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudia Arabia; and Curacao.

Unfortunately, some folks will deploy over the holidays. This year, our EAF tasking is from December 2001 thru February 2002, which will require many of our personnel to spend at least Christmas, New Years or both, away from home.

Why are these folks leaving the beautiful sandy beaches of Jacksonville to deploy around the world at this most joyous time of the year? Because we, as members of the Florida Air National Guard, are all part of the Air Force's **Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF)**. This is the most current concept of how the Air Force organizes, trains, equips, and sustains itself by creating a mindset and cultural state that embraces the unique characteristics of aerospace power – range, speed, flexibility, and precision – to meet the national security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This EAF concept is broken down further into two parts. The first part is the **Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF)** which is a composite wing of aerospace capabilities (aircraft and the direct forces needed to maintain those aircraft) created to

provide forces to meet theater commander in chief (CINC) requirements. An AEF is not a discrete war fighting unit by itself. For us at the 125th, the AEF is our aircraft package and the operations, maintenance, and logistics folks that directly support, fly and maintain the aircraft.

The second component of EAF is the **Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS)** which provides the essential capabilities, functions, activities, and tasks necessary to sustain all elements of aviation and ground combat operations forces in a deployed location. It includes all combat support elements required by units to accomplish their missions in combat. ECS includes functions such as air traffic control and air field management, chaplain, civil engineer, communications and information, contracting, financial management and comptroller, intelligence, judge advocate, logistics plans, public affairs and many others too numerous to list. ECS concepts assure that AEFs are supported and operate with a small support footprint and streamlined infrastructure requirements.

Because of these two different concepts of forces that support the whole EAF, we here at the 125th end up sending many of our ECS personnel to locations around the world that our fighters never deploy to. Just because our fighter aircraft are not there does not mean that these folks are having a picnic. In most cases, our ECS personnel are working 10–12 hour days in support of the local mission at that deployed site.

As the holidays grow closer, and thoughts start to drift towards spending time with family and friends, let us not forget those mem-

bers of our FANG family that will be off in foreign lands this holiday season defending our freedom and helping to provide security for ours and other nations.

## Shooting Competition

*By Tech. Sgt. Robert A. Kennedy  
125th Aircraft Generation Squadron*

A team truly representing the Florida National Guard went to the Regional Shooting Competition at Camp Butner, N.C. June 22 - 23, 2001. The pistol and rifle teams both placed third in the matches that included teams representing six states.

The relatively inexperienced pistol team was happy with its' third place showing in the shooting match.

We came to get some experience and see how the shooting matches work", said Tech. Sgt. Coran L. Williams, 125<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron. The pistol team included members of Army and Air National Guard units throughout the state. Two of the team members, Tech. Sgt. Robert A. Kennedy and Tech. Sgt. Coran L. Williams are both members of the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing.

The rifle team, led by Master Sgt. George V. Nieves, was just as proud to place third in the heavily competitive match. All of the rifle members serve with the 290<sup>th</sup> Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS) in Tampa Fla.

Awards were presented to both teams by Arkansas' Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Hampton. After the presentation, closing remarks included the new push for promotion of marksmanship and participation from as many units as possible.

## Chaplain's Corner

*Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson  
125FW Chaplain Services*

*"Beginning is half done"*

Although I am not sure who first spoke or penned those words, there can be no doubt about their truthfulness. So many projects fail simply because they did not get off to a good start. Other tasks fall short of their intent because they were not worked properly. Those involved did not give attention to the details or keep their ultimate goals in focus. Finally, many good starts fizzle before they finish because they were not completed on time and on target.

Put the following together and we have a sure formula for success in any endeavor:

1. Begin well!
2. Work hard and smart!
3. Finish strong!

Look into the New Testament and you will find the Lord Jesus Christ repeatedly demonstrating these keys as He touched and transformed lives. He is the ultimate example of successful leadership. Maybe you know of other leaders who regularly incorporate these principles in their daily efforts. I know of one who is an inspiration and encouragement to me. His name is Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry Elliott, the founder and head cheerleader for "Operation Christmas Stocking."

Chaplain Elliott began this ministry 25 years ago at the 125th Fighter Wing. His heart's desire was to help children who were in foster care because they had been abandoned, neglected and/or abused. No one on this side of Glory can do everything for everybody; however, we can all do something for somebody. Christmas is certainly a good time to

make a positive difference in someone's life. Thus Operation Christmas Stocking was born!

Chaplain Elliott's visionary leadership and your faithful participation have made Operation Christmas Stocking a dependable blessing to so many special children over the years. Your gifts have brought smiles to lips, twinkles to eyes and hope to hurting hearts for 24 Christmas mornings in the greater Jacksonville area. The bikes, balls, dolls, and other gifts you shared were sometimes the only new toys these children received for Christmas. Knowing that they were not alone and that someone valued and cared for them was the best gift of all!

Thank you for your faithfulness over the past 24 years to Operation Christmas Stocking. Also, please allow me to thank you ahead of time for all you are going to do this year during our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our goal is to receive and distribute 2,500 gifts. This might be impossible for many organizations larger than ours. However, I have no doubts that you will meet and probably exceed this goal. You are the best! God bless You!

## Security Inspection

*By Maj. John E. Black  
125th Operations Group*

The conversion to the F-15 in 1996 has generated many changes to the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. In addition to the obvious changes for the pilots and the maintenance personnel, Air Combat Command (ACC) mandated more modifications to bring our unit up to operational standards for F-15 air-to-air units. This involved adjustments such as how we operate on the flightline to the construction of additional buildings. Many of you have worked hard to facilitate these changes as well as having your duties affected by them. All of your

efforts are appreciated and have paid off!

Representatives from ACC have visited several times to offer their help, but right before the August drill, ACC gave the Wing its first official inspection. The 125th performed very well. The inspectors brought up several items to fix, but they were relatively minor issues. Strong performance areas outweighed the weak ones by more than ten to one. The 125th was the first Air National Guard F-15 unit to be inspected. During the out-brief, the ACC inspectors said, "The Florida Air National Guard has set a standard that will be hard for the other units to meet". I applaud all of your efforts. The 125<sup>th</sup> has attained this level because of you!

## SGLI available for families

Effective November 1, 2001 Serviceman's Group Life insurance (SGLI) will be available for both spouses and children. Spouses may be covered in increments of \$10,000 up to \$100,000 however, the coverage may not exceed the member's coverage. Children are automatically covered for \$10,000. If both spouses are military members, then they are eligible as spouse and member. Each member of a military couple could potentially be insured for \$350,000 through SGLI. Enrollment is automatic for the families of members with coverage. The spouse will be covered for up to \$10,000 provided the amount does not exceed the member's coverage. The cost depends on the spouses' age and the coverage elected. Monthly costs range from 90 cents per \$10,000 for an individual under 35 and \$5.50 per \$10,000 for a 55 year-old. Military members must fill out a form to decline coverage or to elect coverage less than \$100,000.



## Services Flight trains at DoD's best kept secret

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125FW Public Affairs*

ORLANDO, Fla. - A new training day begins. Air National Guard personnel from the 125th Services Flight don their meticulously ironed uniforms and well-shined boots, preparing for another Air Guard day. Another training day spent sitting in meeting rooms filled with slide shows and freshly brewed coffee intended to stop all notions of dozing off during training and the real reason behind the necessity for breaks every 45 minutes.

Amid the aroma of the fresh brewed coffee and the snores of dozing personnel, an airman daydreams. Ah, if only. If only the hard chairs and desks were magically transformed into a first-class resort hotel filled with the joy and contentment of satisfied guests and conscientious employees. If only the military issued "oh-my-gosh-is-that-another-blister," combat boots were replaced with "oh-so-comfortable" tennis shoes. If only we could go to Disney World - the place where no one wears combat boots and the only semblance of a slide show is that really scary looking water slide at Typhoon Lagoon.

The wishes of Airman 'If Only' were answered on June 17, 2001 when the uniform of the day was Khaki shorts, a cool forest green polo shirt, and white tennis shoes. On June 17, the 125th Services Flight deployed for six days to Shades of Green, a Department of Defense operated resort, as part of a training exercise designed to provide hands-on experience from the best. Who are the best?

The men and women employed at the Shades of Green resort located on Walt Disney World properties are the best. Although the resort opened in 1997, few people are aware of the first class amenities it offers, endowing it with the employee given nickname of, 'the best kept secret.'

Like other Armed Forces Recreation Centers, the family oriented resort offers a full range of resort opportunities for service members, their families, and others in the "Total Force" at an affordable price. The Shades of Green is a unique Disney resort because the DoD, not Disney,



*Photo by Senior Airman Shelley R. Gill*

**Members of the 125th Services Flight deployed to Shades of Green in Orlando, Florida as part of a training exercise.**

operates it. Every member of the 125<sup>th</sup> Services Flight commented that the employees at the resort seemed to 'go the extra mile.'

Customers also notice the difference as soon as they enter one of the Shades of Green buses—especially if 'the Singing Bus Lady' is driving the bus! Arlene M. Osid, otherwise known as the Singing Bus Lady, brings her own special touch to bus driving. Once on board the bus, customers are serenaded with "It's a Small World" and other Disney favorites. "Riding the buses from park to park is really trying on all the folks out here so I try to make them smile a little," said Osid.

All of the employees at the resort seemed to endorse this type of 'excellence' and 'service before self' that parallels the objectives of Air Force Services and the United States Air Force.

The training objective for each member of the Services Flight was to learn and be able to describe the Shades of Green basic mission, functions, and basic services provided by the staff, and to relate the mission objectives of the resort to those of the services mission.

The training mission, which served as his last tasking with the Services Flight, was the brainchild of Maj. John F. Wolverton - now commander of the 125th Logistics Squadron. The idea first developed when Wolverton first assumed command of services in 1998.

"I first asked the chief (Senior Master Sgt. Michael R. Speed) 'What type of training do you do to help these

people out' and he started explaining the same old Air Force training where you go in the room and they were using the sound out slides," said Wolverton. "I looked around the room and (the Airmen) were doing nose-dives and I said 'man they're not getting experience out of this, this is not helping them at all.' So I started thinking of ways to get training for them that is unique, individual, one of a kind."

The weeklong "one of a kind" training began June 17 with a 'meet and greet' orientation and a tour of the underground world inhabited solely by 'cast members' of Disney World. The services members also had the opportunity to become acquainted with the "real people" employed at Shades of Green. The 'meet and greet' allowed them to socialize with some of the employees. However, it was not until the second day that they really got a chance to know the people while working alongside them in their respective jobs.

They soon found that working in a resort hotel parallels similar responsibilities of any Air Force Services organization. Jobs such as front desk, dining room/kitchen, housekeeping, grounds keeping and an entire range of MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation) activities complement several services skills. The only service that does not resemble a services responsibility was the bell-stand—unless maybe you are a general.

Each services member worked in a specified section for the first half of the day, switching to another station after lunch. If a member worked the front desk in the morning, they switched to the kitchen—or another work area in the afternoon. This allowed them to experience each aspect of the Shades of Green 'mission.'

"I CAN DO THIS," cried Senior Airman Cynthia E. Barkley-Smith as she watched the front desk personnel work feverishly amidst the 3p.m. check-in 'stampede.' Although it was not her rotation, she knew she could handle the responsibilities. "I worked in billeting while stationed in Guam and I enjoyed it. We don't get a chance to work billeting (at the 125<sup>th</sup>) so this will be a really good experi-

ence. I can't wait to work here (front desk) tomorrow!"

After four days of mowing grass, washing dishes, making reservations and cooking, services members finally returned to the days of old—a meeting room filled with freshly brewed coffee. This time, however, the meeting room lacked one familiar item—dozing Airmen.

On the last day of training, classroom time was spent reflecting on what they had learned and how it related to their mission. Wolverton asked his troops "how do you get experience out of training?" emphasizing that training does not always equal an experience. Out of the myriad of responses one sentiment rang true—you get experience by making the training an "emotional one." Not by training slides and coffee, but by working with the best and getting involved.



*Photo by Senior Airman Shelley R. Gill*

**Senior Airman Cynthia E. Barkley-Smith assists a Shades of Green guest with dinner reservations.**

Following the hour of 'reflection,' the personnel again were treated to a 'fine dining experience' which included a decadent bananas and cream dessert served by the excellent dining room staff. A short awards ceremony came next followed by a Services personnel guided tour for visiting 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing officers including, Colonel Ronald D. Brooks, 125<sup>th</sup> Support Group commander and Lt. Colonel Jeanette B. Booth, 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing vice commander. 125<sup>th</sup> Services members described each work

area and the responsibilities it entailed. Booth, as well as the other visitors, was impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge that the Services members acquired during the weeklong exercise. By days end, it was obvious to all that not only were the training objectives met in an ideal location, but also that deployments like this can be a valuable training tool.

"He (Wolverton) did a really nice job of applying and translating the essential skills that they need to have in services to the skills that they have at Shades of Green," said Booth. "They all seemed to learn more than they had thought they would and it has turned out to be a valuable training tool. Maj. Wolverton has accomplished both the task of training his people and creating an experience that people are willing to raise their hands and volunteer for."



(from left) Col. Charles V. Ickes II; Holly E. Updegraff (Hammons' sister); Katie M. Hammons (wife); Senior Airman William W. Hammons; Jan C. Smith (mother); and BG Douglas Burnett pose on the NGAUS stage.

Photo by Capt. Richard E. Bittner

## Senior Airman William W. Hammons receives NGAUS "Valley Forge Award for Heroism"

*Local guy 'pays it forward'*

By Capt. Richard E. Bittner  
125FW Public Affairs

In a recent movie, "Pay it Forward," adapted from Katherine Ryan Hyde's novel of the same title, actor Haley Joel Osment portrays Trevor McKinney, a young man who, for his class project, invents a method for changing the world for the better.

The strategy entails one person performing one good deed for three different people. Those three individuals in turn do a good deed for three people and so on until the world is changed and becomes a better place due to the 'chain of kindness.' On Saturday August 25, 2001 Senior Airman William W. Hammons was awarded the National Guard Association of the United States "Valley Forge Award for Heroism" in Indianapolis at the annual NGAUS conference for turning methodology into practice and, as a result, saved a life.

Hammons believes his actions on June 21, 2000 were just an example of "paying it forward." On that day at about 5:45 p.m., while

deployed to Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla. for his two weeks of annual training, Hammons happened upon a car accident on the Florida Turnpike near the 4-mile marker. A car had exited the highway and was almost completely submerged in an estimated 12-13 feet of water. The unconscious driver was trapped in the submerged car. As others looked on, Hammons analyzed the situation and jumped into the water.

After struggling for several minutes, he broke one of the car windows with a hammer and gained entry into the car. Hammons swam through the opening, freed the trapped driver, and pulled him to safety. Totally exhausted and bleeding from cuts caused by the broken glass, he then rendered CPR to the driver until medical assistance arrived. Although the driver was trapped underwater for an estimated seven minutes, Hammons was able to resuscitate him. His heroic actions saved a life. After listening to Hammons tell his story, one cannot help but be amazed by his humility. Hammons' courage, quick thinking and decisive action saved this man's

life but to Hammons, he was just doing what anyone else would have done. Hammons was just paying forward the kindness his family received in similar situations.

In March 2000, Hammons' wife Katie was in a serious car accident. Fortunately, a trauma nurse just happened to be near the scene when the accident occurred. Mrs. Hammons injuries were such that any unnecessary movement could have ended her life. The trauma nurse, trained to deal with such accidents, knew exactly what to do, thereby saving her life.

A similar incident happened to Hammons' stepfather, Arthur Smith, in 1999. While he was on his way home from work one afternoon, Smith's vehicle flipped and ended up inverted in a roadside canal. A passerby stopped, broke the rear window, freed Smith and then continued on his way. Smith didn't even get the opportunity to say "thank you." Hammons got the opportunity to say thank you for his stepfather on June 21, 2000.

As Hammons would say "I was just paying it forward."



# A conversation with Brig. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr. New commander of the Florida Air National Guard

By Capt. Richard E. Bittner  
125FW Public Affairs

**EE: Your story is unique in that you have attained the pinnacle of success in the Florida Air National Guard as a traditional guardsman. Will you share your career path?**

Titshaw: Sometimes when you start the journey you don't know where the destination is going to lead you. So I can't say that the first day I was in the Florida Air Guard I set this as a goal. However, certainly in the last 15 years I saw it as a possibility. I've had the benefit of senior officers and mentors who have never seen being a drill status guardsmen as a liability and that has been a big cultural shift in our organization the last 15 years. The attitudes 15 or 20 years ago was that senior leadership would always be fulltime. Drill status guardsmen would be fillers and would be allowed to occupy leadership positions up to a point, generally speaking, at the squadron level. That all changed over the last 10 or 15 years and it changed because I had senior leaders who gave me the opportunity, who said 'it doesn't matter what your drill position is or your pay status is. What matters is how you feel about being a leader of this organization. It matters what you can accomplish.'

**EE: What do you consider to be your best leadership asset?**

Titshaw: I have been fortunate in that if I had one skill that has benefited me in my career it's the asset of being able to recognize potential in people. It's a people thing – its not a mission execution thing, it is a people thing. I don't see this position of where I am today as my singular accomplishment. I see it as a lot of good people got me here. I'm not talking about just the senior leaders who gave me the opportunity, I'm talking about the ones that I hired from the outside, the ones that I've been able to bring along with me - these people – I'm riding their crest and I'm enjoying it and I have enjoyed it. Its not so much about me and about singular leadership, its about team leadership.

**EE: Relating to the FANG's future, what is your vision for your role in your new position?**

Titshaw: The primary role of senior leaders is to look at challenges strategically. To look into the future, to be the person with the flashlight shining in the darkness pointing the way because we have that responsibility. We have that opportunity to look into the future and forecast and utilize our experience and our supposed wisdom to guide our organizations into the future. We live in an interesting



*Photo by Senior Airman Shelly R. Gill*

time. Here it is 10, 12 years after the wall fell (end of the cold war) and we're still thrashing about saying what is our construct for the future going to look like? Is it going to be dollar driven? Is it going to be threat driven? Is it going to be tactics driven? What is it going to look like? The new administration in Washington today is still coming up with what we are going to look like in the future. That qualifies us as living in interesting times because things can change. And what is important for Florida and for the people of Florida and our organization is that it changes for the good, both for our state and nation and for the people who are in our organizations. That's going to require that we manage any transition that we have. We are growing the Air National Guard in Florida as opposed to a shrinking DoD establishment. That runs counter (to current trends) and we've been successful and able to grow and get new missions when everyone else is shrinking. So how long can we keep that up? Well that's my job! It is my job and it's Gen. Burnett's job to ensure that we have opportunity for our people in the future.

*See Titshaw page 23...*

# In the Spotlight.....

## Master Sgt. Marcia L. Boulis

**Job description:** Civil Engineering Squadron First Sergeant

**Civilian Job:** Programmer for Logistics Services International. We (LSI) compose Computer Based Training for the Department of Defense.

**Years in Guard/Air Force:** Ohio ANG (12) and Florida ANG (11)

**Why I joined the Guard:** To set the example for my siblings.

**Most memorable moment in the FANG:** Col. William J. Strandell and Master Sgt. Robin Severson came to my college graduation and presented me with First Sergeant stripes and informed me that I was officially selected as the CE First Sergeant. My whole family and many Red Horse Squadron friends were there as I was graduating with two degrees.

**Goals with the 125th:** Attain the highest rank I can and accomplish as much as possible for the good of the military community.



*Photo by Master Sgt. Lee-ann R. Steiner*

## Master Sgt. Mark T. Wolfenden

**Job description:** Retention Office Manager

**Civilian job:** AGR here at the 125th Fighter Wing

**Years in Guard/Air Force:** Active duty (6 yrs), Ohio ANG (10 yrs), Florida ANG (Dec 2000)

**Why I joined the Guard:** I joined the Guard because I wanted to maintain military affiliation after active duty. I got hired full-time in Recruiting in 1995 and have been a Recruiter, Retention Manager, Recruiting Office Supervisor and now, a Retention Manager again. I truly love Retention!

**Most memorable moment in the FANG:** Every day is filled with memorable moments here at the 125th. I have enjoyed every day since my arrival in December.

**Goals with the 125th:** 1. Provide the best retention service possible to the 125th and our GSUs (Geographically Separated Units). 2. Enhance the Recruiting/Retention team concept. 3. Have a positive influence on unit members lives and the FANG.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

## News from the 125<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Office....

The PA office is working hard to make the Eagles Eye a professional, top-notch publication. If you like what you see in our new full color format, tell us. Without lots of positive comments from our readers, we will be forced to go back to black and white. Please email comments, suggestions and/or stories to Capt. Richard E. Bittner at [richard.bittner@fljack.af.mil](mailto:richard.bittner@fljack.af.mil) or call ext. 7030 during the week and Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas during drill weekends at [michelle.thomas@fljack.af.mil](mailto:michelle.thomas@fljack.af.mil), ext. 7032.



## Cover the Bases and Strike Out Fire! Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13, 2001

Cooking, heating and electrical fires account for half of all home fires. So, "Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire" positions kitchen safety at first base, heating safety at second base and electrical safety at third.

Home plate serves as a reminder to children to conduct smoke alarm tests and plan home fire escapes with parents and caregivers. Just like baseball, fire prevention is a team sport, and we encourage parents to work closely with each other to stay safe.

**More to Come!**

## OPSEC The Quiet One, this could happen to you!

*By Capt. Steven R. Hilsdon, Wing OPSEC Manager*

On the night of December 6, 1972 a Hughes 500P helicopter took off from a guerrilla base in southern Laos, code named Pakse Site 44 (PS 44). The Quiet One, as the Hughes 500P was officially dubbed by its manufacturers, was designed and built to lower the sound signature produced by a helicopter's whirling blades. The Quiet One's noise could not be detected until it was within 912 ft, as compared to 1.5 miles for a standard Hughes 500.

Heading northward, The Quiet One flew at an altitude of 200 feet. As the terrain leveled out, the crew increased speed and lowered to 100 feet as the helicopter flew over known North Vietnamese anti-aircraft positions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. No shots were fired. Climbing and passing over the Annamites Range, the Hughes 500P picked up speed going down the east side of the mountains.

Weaving into North Vietnam, the co-pilot studied the navigation readout and called directions until The Quiet One was about 1.25 miles from the target, an elevated multiplex trunk line 15 miles south east of Vinh. The helicopter edged into a clearing just large enough to accommodate the Hughes. The clearing

was, in fact, a fresh bomb crater that (given its proximity to a nearby bridge) appeared to be the result of poor aiming. Actually, the bomb had been intentionally diverted for the express purpose of clearing a landing zone for this mission.

Adjusting their assault rifles across their backs, commandos jumped from the hovering helicopter. The commandos quickly located the telephone pole and affixed two voice activated taps with tape. Once the taps were in place, they retraced their steps to the landing zone. Exactly 20 minutes later, The Quiet One picked them up without incident, and flew for one hour directly back to Nakhon Phanom.

Dr. Henry Kissinger now had a secret ace up his sleeve at the Paris Peace Talks. The Vinh tap was providing a stream of information from inside North Vietnam. Dr. Kissinger, for example, knew when his North Vietnamese counterparts were lying about their troop movements into South Vietnam. He also knew their candid reactions to Linebacker II. The wire tap offered invaluable insights into Hanoi's mindset during the final days of the Vietnam War.

**Adversarial monitoring of a system can be a serious threat to**



**operational security. All of our telecommunication systems have the potential of being monitored. It is foolish to think that adversaries could not use their resources and methods available to collect and exploit sensitive/critical information. It is everyone's responsibility to protect our mission critical information and OPSEC indicators, which are clues that lead an adversary to our plans and deployments.**

As we prepare to deploy in support of Operation Northern Watch and other commitments, bear in mind that numbers of personnel and aircraft deploying and dates of the deployment are all common knowledge amongst deployers, but it is considered OPSEC information. So protect it as such!



# 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing says “thank you” to JSO

*By Master Sgt. Brian M. Blaquiere  
125th Security Forces*

June 28, 2001, several members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) were honored with awards from Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Chief of Staff of the Army, for the support the JSO provided for a memorial service and dignitary escort conducted March 11, 2001. Brig. Gen. Douglas Burnett, Assistant Adjutant General – Air for Florida and Col. Charles V. Ickes II, 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing commander, presented “Shinseki coins” on his behalf to JSO officers for their support during the memorial services held to honor and remember the Army and Air National Guard members who perished in the C-23 Sherpa aircraft that crashed March 3, 2001 near Unadilla, Ga.

Burnett and Ickes presented coins to Sgt. Robert N. Amy, Sgt. Frank D. Japour and officers Peter C. Goody, Jose O. Gonzalez, Leticia I. Freeman and John S. Stevens. This team provided critical and timely traffic



*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner*

**BG Burnett presents Shinseki coin to Officer Peter C. Goody**



*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner*

**125th Security Forces members pose with Sheriff Nat Glover before the ceremony. (from left) Tech. Sgt. Thomas G. Norton; Sheriff Glover; Maj. Mike Robinson; Master Sgt. Brian M. Blaquiere; and Staff Sgt. Gary C. Raulerson, Jr.**

control for the general's motorcade. Their assistance helped ensure the memorial services began on time and enhanced the protection of the general and his party

During the ceremony, Ickes spoke about the crash and the subsequent events that led to the memorial services at Craig Airfield. Ickes informed the audience that Shinseki and his support staff attended the memorial service. Shinseki and his party were successfully escorted from the 125FW to Craig Airfield and back without complication. Shinseki's protection agents spoke highly of the support they received from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the Florida Highway Patrol and the 125<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron in protection of the general.

Burnett also spoke during the ceremony on the importance of employer support in the National Guard and thanked the JSO for their support. The JSO employs several traditional Guard members. Burnett also spoke on the ever-increasing duties placed on the National Guard and how employers of Guard members play a tremendous role ensuring the members can fulfill their Guard commitments. Employer support allows Guard members to focus their energies on their Guard mission when activated, not the job left behind.

It is comforting to know that the Florida National Guard can count on the JSO to work hand in hand to help the families of our fallen heroes get through a trying time.

# SAFETY NEWS

AIR COMBAT COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
LAWLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA 22060-1000  
29 December 2000

Colonel Charles V. Ickes II  
Commander  
125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing  
14300 Fong Drive  
Jacksonville FL 32218-7933

Dear Colonel Ickes:

Congratulations on completing FY 00 without a command-controlled Class A or B flight mishap. The Wing's performance has earned them the Air Combat Command Flight Safety Award. This award is a tribute to their team effort in fostering a culture of safety. Please convey our sincere appreciation to the men and women of the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing for their commitment in making 2000 a successful year—well done.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN P. JUMPER  
General, USAF  
Commander

401  
NGB/CF

All members of the 125th Fighter Wing have the responsibility to report hazards. Report hazards on an Air Force Form 457. You can find the form on bulletin boards or on the Air Force Pubs website. The form will also be available on the Safety Web link.

*Safety is everyone's responsibility. A safe work place doesn't just happen. It takes all of us to eliminate the conditions that create mishaps.*

## WEB LINK

The Safety office now has a site on the Intranet. We are currently adding information and forms that we hope will be useful to all members. Please take a few minutes and familiarize yourself with the site. Let us know what you would like to see on the site or any suggestions you may have to make it better.....Call Chief Master Sgt. James E. Sumner at extension 7015!

*Call the Safety office at 7015/7016 with any safety related questions.*



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
1411 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3233

NGB/CF  
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202-3233

Major General Ronald O. Harrison  
The Adjutant General, Florida  
Post Office Box 1006  
St. Augustine, FL 32085-1006

Dear General Harrison:

It is my distinct pleasure to add my congratulations to those of General Jumper, Commander ACC, to the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing for completing FY 00 without a command-controlled Class A or B flight mishap and thereby earning the Air Combat Command Flight Safety Award.

Please pass my personal congratulations to the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. Their selection for this prestigious award reflects great credit upon the men and women of this fine unit, the state of Florida, the Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force.

Sincerely,

  
PAUL A. WEAVER, JR.  
Major General, USAF  
Director, Air National Guard

Attachment:  
IBQ ACC Ltr, 29 Dec 00

## The Retired Officers Association Mayport Chapter, TROA

An invitation to join our Chapter:

On June 29, 2001, three members of our Chapter had the privilege of visiting your organization, and receiving a briefing by Wing Commander Col. Charles V. Ickes II. The briefing was followed by a tour of your facilities including an up close examination of your F-15 Fighter, a remarkable, sophisticated and impressive airframe. We left with a renewed feeling that the 125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard (FANG) was in good hands and doing an outstanding job.

Upon later reflection of our membership composition we found we lacked chapter representation by FANG officers living in the area. We suspect many officers believe membership is for retired officers only. Not so - our membership includes active, reserve, retired and former officers of our military services.

As an affiliate of the national TROA organization, our Chapter continues to be both active and supportive of legislative issues affecting our active duty and reserve components at home and abroad. However, to be fully effective in promoting desirable legislation on military issues, our representation should include all military services of which the FANG is an important one.

We therefore encourage eligible officers to consider a membership in our Mayport Chapter. A phone call to our Membership Chairman Lt. Cmdr. Campbell J. McCarthy USNR/Ret (904) 396-5379, or E-mail [cjmccarthy@juno.com](mailto:cjmccarthy@juno.com) requesting information or an application is all it takes. Our meetings and events are generally conducted monthly at the Mayport Ocean Breeze Conference Center (formerly the Mayport Station Officers Club). A copy of our Chapter News Letter can be provided upon request.

## Florida Air National Guard Retirees Association (FLANGRA)

Dear Retirees,

I hope everyone had a good summer. I'm sure many of you have been as busy as ever.

Several of us spent a few days working on the F-106 project at Camp Blanding. Jack Stuart spent many hours organizing and getting men and equipment. Don Barnhart performed yeoman's duties, getting plans and material ready for the dedication on November 10. Don Bergin's team, along with several volunteers and members of the 202<sup>nd</sup> Red Horse Squadron, put the tail back on the aircraft. It is beginning to look like a real airplane again. We also got the F-106 off of the the cradle and standing on its own gear. We still have a lot of screws to put in before we paint it. We still have a long way to go and need even more help.

What the project desperately needs is **money to finish the mounting base. YOU CAN HELP (retirees and Guardsmen alike)!** If you haven't bought a brick or made a contribution **please consider helping.**

Our fall meeting will be at the Orange Park Holiday Inn on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Frank Kozdras has arranged a good program and the menu will be the same as last time. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Social hour is at 6 p.m. and dinner is scheduled for 7 p.m.. Put the meeting on your calendar and plan to attend.

Last but not least, congratulations to our own Brig. Gen. Doug Burnett. Many of you (retirees) probably remember when he came into the unit as an airman in the radio shop. He has been appointed as The Adjutant General of Florida by Gov. Bush.

**REMEMBER: Your contributions to the F-106 project are tax deductible!**

Send checks to: CBMHA/FLANGHERITAGE PROJECT  
Headquarters Florida Air National Guard  
P.O. Box 1008  
St. Augustine FL. 32085  
Attn: Col.(R) Frank Kozdras

Lets spread the word and have a good turn out in October. See you there.

Jack Stuart, 757-1327, [jack.stuart@juno.com](mailto:jack.stuart@juno.com)

Ernie Webster, President FLANGRA  
724-8782, [Eweb34@aol.com](mailto:Eweb34@aol.com)



## Welcome

Capt Kenneth Johnson, 125 OSF  
Major Pedro J. Santiago, 125 CES  
A1C Jamesia L. Aldridge, 125 STUFT  
A1C Kelly J. Barnewolt, 125 STUFT  
A1C Kristin R. Beahn, 125 STUFT  
A1C Dreese B. Bonkowski, 125 STUFT  
SrA Fred Chalmers, 125 CES  
SSgt Christopher Bowman, 125 SFS  
A1C September L. Carthon, 125 SFS  
A1C Julian R. Clawson, 125 STUFT  
SSgt Andru J. Devine II, 125 MS  
SSgt Marilyn A. Diller, 125 FW  
A1C Frank G. Enright, 125 STUFT  
A1C Glenn F. Foreman, Jr., 125 STUFT  
SSgt Kristin L. Freeman, 125 LS  
SrA Apryl L. Gwiazdon, 125 MEDS  
A1C James D. Hogan, 125 STUFT  
SrA Daniel L. Lagoe, 125 MS  
SrA Kenneth Palmer, 125 STUFT  
SrA George M. Noble, Jr., 125 MS  
SrA Megan C. Scharfenstine, 125 MEDS  
SRA Lloyd C. Scharfenstine, 125 MEDS  
A1C Justin O. Stoutamire, 125 STUFT  
A1C Thomas J. Terris, 125 STUFT  
SSgt Leigh M. Waters, 125 SFS  
A1C Michael T. Waters, 125 STUFT  
SrA Matthew E. Whiting, 125 AGS  
AB Jennifer M. Winston, 125 STUFT

## Retirements

SMSgt Donald E. Bunk, 125 AGS  
TSgt Roger N. Keen, 125 MS  
MSgt Gary L. Dixon, 125 MS  
SMSgt Richard Rivera, DET 1  
CMSgt Richard C. Jewell, 125 AGS

## Promotions

### Maj to Lt Col:

Richard A. Phelps, 125 FW  
Thomas W. Beall, Jr., 159 FS

### Capt to Maj:

John E. Black, 159 FS

### 1LT to Capt

Robert T. Botkin, 125 FW  
Glenn S. Fannin, 125 SFS

### MSgt to SMSgt:

Patrick W. Graham, 125 MEDS  
John K. Bass, 125 MS  
Darrell L. Abram, 125 AGS

### TSgt to MSgt:

Christopher L. Mehr, 125 MEDS  
Richard F. Johnson, 125 MS  
Angella M. Beckom, 125 MEDS  
John J. Zanone, 125 AGS  
Jonnie B. Wilson, 125 SFS  
Gary W. Bescrypt, 125 MS  
Randall R. Crews, 125 MS  
Sheila C. Williams, 125 MSF  
Guido D. Paternoster, 125 FW

### SSgt to TSgt:

Leticia D. Clark, 125 MEDS  
Andrew Armijo, 125 LS  
Brenda A. Cline, 125 MEDS  
Virgil L. Lockhart III, 125 MEDS  
Leland L. Williams, 125 CES  
Michael T. Pankiewicz, 125 MS  
Dwayne E. Morris, 125 CF  
Bret A. Sellers, 125 MS  
David A. Espinosa, Jr., 125 MS  
Darren W. Small, 125 MS  
Clarence R. Chesser, 125 MS  
Joseph K. Crews, 125 MS

### SrA to SSgt:

Allen P. Roberts, Jr., 125 FW  
Melissa A. Celzo, 125 MEDS  
Calvin E. Hicklin, 125 MEDS  
John R. Tegland, 125 MS  
Stephen M. Messier, 125 MS  
Scott W. Bryant, 125 MS  
Amanda K. Loughlin, 125 SFS

### A1C to SrA:

Phillip H. Gwaltney, 125 MS  
Micah L. McIntyre, 125 CF  
Carroll J. Bonner, 125 STUFT

### AB to A1C:

Ryan J. Blaise, 125 STUFT  
Rebecca L. Fox, 125 STUFT



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lawrence J. Shaw*

**Col. Ronald J. Stephens the State Air Surgeon, takes his final flight in the F-15B. Col. Stephens retired in August 2001 after 37 years of active and guard service.**

# Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs gets serious about teeth

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125FW Public Affairs

If called upon, are you fully ready and prepared to deploy overseas? Because of the complications that life usually prevails upon us, the last thing a member of the Air National Guard may or may not think about is the DD Form 2813 and SF 603A—forms that need to be prepared and signed prior to deployment.

Per the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD/HA), every member of the Florida Air National Guard must have an annual dental exam. This policy emerged as a consequence of the widespread preventable dental problems identified in military members during Operations DESERT SHIELD/

DESERT STORM. A reported 20% of all sick call incidents were related to dental abnormalities that should be dealt with before any military member departs on deployment. Phase-in for this implementation plan begins immediately with a goal of 90% compliance by 2004.

Absolute implementation of this new policy requires proficient communication of the importance of dental readiness. Therefore, each member of the Florida Air National Guard must have an annual dental exam and complete DD Form 2813 and SF 603A (with their dentist's signature).

Guard Members and their

families are eligible for the new TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) and are strongly encouraged to consider this cost effective dental insurance. The TDP includes an examination benefit as part of its comprehensive dental package that may be use to fulfill the annual dental examination requirement. To sign up or to acquire more information about the TRICARE Dental Program, please call 1-800-866-8499. In addition, feel free to call the Medical Squadron at (904) 741-7651.



## Family Readiness

By Karen Gainey  
125FW Family Readiness  
Volunteer Coordinator

### What is the Family Readiness Program?

The Family Readiness program is an organization of officers and enlisted personnel and their family members. Program volunteers provide information and comprise a support network for families and Guard members during their association with the Guard, especially during times of separation.

### Our Mission is:

1. To nurture a bond between the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and its families.
2. To foster a sense that families are an important part of readiness, recruitment, and retention.
3. To aid families during mobilization by providing referral to community, state, and national resources.
4. To develop a program to educate and inform families in peacetime and in the event of mobilization.



We are looking for Family Readiness Volunteers to help with the following areas:

1. **INFORM** – seek and relay information about programs of value to families.
2. **INTERACT** – with families.
3. **ORGANIZE** – Family Readiness family functions.
4. **REACH OUT** – welcome, generate hospitality and caring.
5. **REFER** – direct families to appropriate resource and follow up.
6. **NETWORK** – meet key people, exchange information.
7. **EMPOWER** – help families help themselves and each other.
8. **COMMUNICATE** – via listening, newsletters and phone tree.

If **you** are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the Wing Family Readiness Volunteer Coordinator, Ms. Karen Gainey at (904) 292-1719. You can also reach her via E-mail at [kg4326@aol.com](mailto:kg4326@aol.com).

*...Titshaw continued from page 15*

**EE: Where do we fit in to the acquisition of the F-22 picture?**

Titshaw: I'll tell you what, if any organization is going to get it (the F-22) in the Air National Guard we're going to be poised to be able to get it in this organization (the 125FW).

**EE: What about a new flying wing for Florida?**

Titshaw: Well, that would run very counter to trends. We haven't seen new flying wings out there for a long, long time. A new flying wing has been one of our objectives for the last 20 years because Florida has grown. We're the fourth largest state by population in the nation and yet we have only one Air National Guard flying wing. We need a second wing because of our GSU (geographically separated units) density in this state. We need that second wing to provide the administrative support and operational support and spread some of that support requirement around to some other organization. It is a tremendous load on the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing to try to operate and support and manage eight GSUs. No other fighter wing in this nation has that kind of density of GSUs under their umbrella – none of them! We're unique in Florida and it is a tremendous challenge but, you know what, our people are doing it and you see the results in our outstanding unit awards at the 125<sup>th</sup>, ...etc. Our people are doing it but we know as senior leaders, that it is a tremen-

dous burden on them and it is not the right answer to this problem and so yes a second flying wing is a priority. Is it possible? All things are possible but you have to be prepared. (We need to) be prepared to be tasked. A second flying wing would solve many of our problems in this state. It would create opportunity for us to be represented on a national scale where we should be as the fourth largest state in the U.S. population.

It's been a very gratifying time and I'm just proud to be a part of this organization and I'm very humbled about it but I am also very proud to serve with the people that I serve with each and every day.

I have tremendous satisfaction being able to be a part and not only just lead but to be a part of an organization that is so relevant to our nation's defense today. It has been such a transition in my 31 years from a force in reserve to, really today, a force in being and a force in demand. It's not only the AEF (Aerospace Expeditionary Force) that has created it but I think the AEF has highlighted it. The fact that the Air National Guard, and all of the reserve components, now is a vital key part and relevant part of our day-to-day nation's defense structure. It wasn't so 30 years ago or 10 years ago for that matter. It has been a wonderful transition. We are where we need to be. We started out as a militia nation and once again with the end of the cold war we are

becoming more and more of a militia nation again. It's what our forefathers envisioned and it's what our budgetary constraints will lead us to. The right answer is there. It has been there all along and I think were slowly evolving to that.

**BG Titshaw pictured second from left in an undated photo in the 125th Fighter Wing headquarters lobby.**

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Judy Burnett*





# New Channel Guide For CCTV

Ch 2 Commander's Channel \*

Ch 8 FOX

Ch 3 Weather Channel

Ch 9 Warrior

Ch 4 CBS

Ch10 Warrior

Ch 5 CNN

Ch11 Warrior

Ch 6 ABC

Ch12 NBC

Ch 7 PBS

Ch13 WB/17/Studio

\* E-mail TSgt Shaun Withers([shaun.withers@fljack.ang.af.mil](mailto:shaun.withers@fljack.ang.af.mil)) or  
SrA Lee Tucker([lee.tucker@fljack.ang.af.mil](mailto:lee.tucker@fljack.ang.af.mil)) with your announcements for  
use on the Commanders Channel. Commanders Channel uses standard Power Point  
slides so feel free to build your own, just remember to make the text and colors easy  
to read and large enough for video use. This channel is for OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

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